

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/502,136
Amendment
Reply to Office Action dated October 21, 2005

Docket No. 9425-4

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) The container according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the container is a substantially square or rectangular container comprising two substantially parallel sidewalls, two opposing substantially parallel end walls, and two parallel walls defining a floor and roof wall respectively of the container.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The A container according to claim 1, wherein the container is for use as an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium, vivarium or the like, the container comprising:~~

a hollow, transparent glass brick dimensioned to engage similar glass bricks so as to form a display arrangement, such as a glass wall;

a substantially continuous interior surface defining a chamber for housing matter selected from the group consisting of fish, plants, animal matter, insect matter, decorative matter and ornamental matter;

radiused corner zones between interior surfaces of neighboring walls of the container;
and

at least one sealable aperture extending through a wall of the container for permitting access to said matter within the container.

4. (Currently amended) The container according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the container includes a tight-fitting plug for sealing the aperture, the plug being manufactured from any one of cork, wood, rubber, glass or the like.

5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Previously presented) A temporarily self-sustaining terrarium characterized therein that it is arranged within a hollow glass brick which includes a substantially continuous interior surface and radiused corner zones between interior surfaces of neighboring walls of the brick; and at least one aperture extending through a wall of the glass brick or permitting access to contents within the brick; the terrarium further being characterized therein that it includes a first drainage layer comprising a mixture of approximately 50% charcoal and 50% river sand.

7. (Previously presented) The terrarium according to claim 6, wherein it includes a second layer for supporting plant material therein, the second layer comprising either a mixture of approximately 55% potting soil and 45% river sand for desert-type plants, or a mixture of approximately 80% potting soil and 20% peatmoss for forest-type plants.

8. (Previously presented) A method of producing a temporarily self-sustaining terrarium that is arranged within an at least partially transparent container, the method comprising the steps of:

introducing a first drainage soil layer comprising a mixture of approximately 50% charcoal and 50% river sand into the container and leveling the drainage layer;

introducing a second soil layer comprising either a mixture of approximately 55% potting soil and 45% river sand for desert-type plants, or a mixture of approximately 80% potting soil and 20% peatmoss for forest-type plants into the container and leveling the soil layer;

sterilizing the soil mixtures by subjecting the container to microwave treatment so as to remove potentially unwanted bacteria; sealing the container and allowing the same to cool;

and introducing plant material into the container and sealing the container so as to create an ecosystem within which the plant material can grow in the absence of added oxygen or water.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~The A wall structure according to claim 10, wherein the wall structure is a glass wall comprising a series of hollow glass bricks wherein each brick includes~~ matter selected from the group consisting of fish, and/or plants, and/or animal matter, [[or]] insect matter, and/or decorative matter or and ornamental matter and

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wherein each container includes a substantially continuous interior surface and radiused corner zones between interior surfaces of neighboring walls of the container; and

at least one aperture extending through a wall of the container for permitting access to contents within the container.

12-18. (Cancelled)